

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action, issued for the above-identified application on March 29, 2006. Claims 1-27 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-27 are rejected.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claim 1 recited "at least one compound" and claims 12 and 13 recite "a mixture of compounds." According to the Examiner, these claim preambles are improper, as only a single compound is set forth in a compound claim at a time. The Examiner further suggests that claim 1 should read "a compound" and claims 12 and 13 should read "a composition."

In response to this rejection, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 12 and 13 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. The Applicants have also made similar amendments to claims 14, 15 and 19-21 to conform to the amended claims 1, 12 and 13 and to further clarify the invention. In view of the amendments made herein, the Applicants believe that the above rejection of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. 112 no longer applies, therefore, the Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claim 1 is rendered indefinite because of the use of " Δ 4,5 position" and " Δ 3A,4 position." According to the Examiner, the Applicants' nomenclature is unclear because it is not clear how the carbons are being numbered.

In response to this rejection, the applicants have amended claim 1 by removing terms " Δ 4,5 position" and " Δ 3A,4 position" and describing the double bond by more clear terms "trisubstituted" and "tetrasubstituted." The Applicants submit that these terms do not constitute a new matter, since they simply describe the claimed structure. In view of the amendments made herein to claim 1, the Applicants believe that the above rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112 no longer applies, therefore, the Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such as omission amounting to a gap

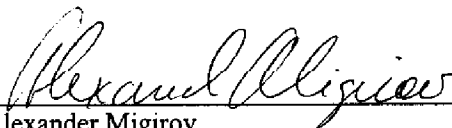
between the steps. According to the Examiner, the omitted steps are: process steps and reactants for the synthesis of the compound of formula 8.

In response to this rejection, the Applicants have amended claim 26 by adding additional reaction steps, such as the type of the reaction, the temperature at which the reaction proceeds and the catalysts that may be used in the reaction. The Applicants have specified that the reaction takes place via the Claisen rearrangement mechanism, at about 190-210°C and using a catalyst selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, potassium diacid phosphate, sodium diacid phosphate, sodium bisulfate, an acid ion exchange catalyst, disodium citrate and hydroquinone. No other steps are necessary for the reaction to proceed. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the above rejection of claim 26 be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments made herein, the Applicants believe that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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